

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends claims 1 and 2. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification. *See e.g.*, Fig. 9 and accompanying text. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11 and 13-25 are pending in this application. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that the rejection should be withdrawn and that all currently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 6, 8-11 AND 13-25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8-11 and 13-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,800,623 to Brockhaus (“Brockhaus”), in view of one of U.S. Patent 6,554,524 to Smith (“Smith”), U.S. Patent 3,827,820 to Hoffman (“Hoffman”), U.S. Patent 1,984,350 Halsey et al. (“Halsey”), or U.S. Patent 933,625 Clackson (“Clackson”).

The foregoing amendment to claims 1 and 2 clarifies aspects of the hinge pin engagement means and/or the housing. The specification describes at [0022]:

Preferably hinge pin retention means are provided for axially retaining the hinge pin 15 within the bore 32. Preferably the hinge pin retaining means 35 includes a ball catch assembly 37 having a ball bearing 38 resiliently biased by a spring 41 (FIG. 9) into contact with an annular groove 40 extending about the hinge pin 15.

As previously discussed claims 1 and 2 are patentable over the cited references since the cited references do not describe the claimed hinge pin retention means or the engagement means. *See* Response dated 11/02/09, pp. 7-11.

The substance of the foregoing amendment was discussed with the examiner on March 5, 2010 and the examiner indicated that the amendments would place the claims in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing remarks. If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

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